39

ALL ABOUT
THE
Chief Minister's Tour at Manaparai.

19 JAN 1923
MADRAS

EDITED BY

K. R. VENKATARAMAN,

Journalist, Author of "The Poverty Problem," "Letters to Students," "British Rule in India," "Lakshmikantham or The Power of Love," "Lord Hardinge at Trichinopoly." "Lord Willingdon at Karur," "Romance of a "Financier," etc., and formerly Editor "The South Indian Record" Trichinopoly.

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369

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ...
19 JAN 1923
MADRAS

The following note is extracted from a letter of Mr. E. C. Smith I.C.S., Private Secretary to His Excellency Lord Willingdon, Governor of Madras:—

Government House,
Madras.
9th January 1923.

Dear Sir,

I have laid your letter of the 8th January and its enclosures before His Excellency. His Excellency is glad to learn that you are devoting the sale proceeds of your publication to such good work as the Red Cross and Health Association. His Excellency much appreciated your kind references to him in connection with the successful working of the Reform Scheme in your poem.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) E. C. Smith.

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMAN,
Thiruvanaikoil.

221980

INTRODUCTION.

19 JAN 1923

The Editor begs to be excused for the short delay in publishing this booklet and hopes his indulgent readers will excuse him as he was prevented by reasons over which the poor Editor had no control. Every honest citizen does really feel the need of such a booklet for there is no publication worth the name which deals elaborately with matters of local importance. The Minister's visit to this place is an incident which ought to arouse the interest of every one in the District and the Editor proposes to sketch briefly the chief incidents in his tour in this District. Further a publication of this kind is of extreme importance as it deals with matters which immediately concern us.

We all know what it is to have good roads and what a blessing it is to have a through means of communication. Bridges form an essential part of means of communication and without them we would remain isolatəd.

To the unceasing efforts of that enlightened President of the District Board, Dewan Bahadur Sir. T. Desikachari, Kt., we owe the three magnificent bridges of the District. Had it not been for his noble and selfless undertaking the District would be poorer by three bridges and would have remained in ignominous isolation. It is an achievement about which Sir T. Desikachari ought really to be proud and the bridges are standing monuments of his disinterestəd work and patriotic self-sacrifice. Some malignant critics envious of his fame have tried to cast slur on his work but without success and we treat them with the contempt which they deserve and leave them alone unnoticed.

Varied are the activities of Sir T. Desikachari. He is an asset to the District Board and we hope he will be spared many more years to fulfill the several tasks which he has undertaken for the all round improvement of the District. We hope the President of the District Board is aware of the hard lot of the poor school masters who are under the service of the Board. The poor school masters look up to Sir T. Desikachari for support as they are fully aware of the President's kindly sympathies for the really distressed and we earnestly hope he will plead their cause in the Board. If Sir T. Desikachari could not do it no one else could. We print elsewhere the speech delivered by Sir T. Desikachari at Manapparai in connection with the opening of the Mamundiar Bridge and the Minister's reply thereon. The speech is a model of its kind and we earnestly urge our readers to peruse it carefully.

The Minister's reply is gracious and speaks to the broad sympathies of that patriot. The Minister was well impressed with the good workmanship of the bridge and has made a kind reference to Mr. De Mello, the Engineer in charge of the works. In this connection we may refer our readers to the speech of the late Dr. Nair delivered at the Madras Corporation wherein, the Doctor refers to the unexampled courage and honesty of Mr. De Mello. We extract below the speech of Dr. Nair from the *Madras Standard* dated 3rd *November* 1909.

"Before I close Sir, I want to say a word about the Mechanical Engineer. I am not going to say anything about the work. They speak for themselves. But I must say that I admire his courage. To come forward with such a report in which Municipal Commissioners and Municipal Officers are alike exposed speaks volumes for

his courage and honesty of purpose. It is easy for executive officers in this Corporation to be popular with Commissioners. An elastic conscience, and readiness to break any municipal rule to oblige a Commissioner will help him to be clothed in a halo of glory. In such environments to find an officer who is prepared to brave the displeasure of both Commissioners and Officers in his endeavour to bring out the truth is as refreshing as it is rare. If the statements contained in the Mechanical Engineer's report are not true then he deserves the severest punishment that we can award. But if on the other hand, his statements are true no praise is too high and no reward too great for the service that he has rendered to this Corporation and to the rate-payers of this city".

The New Year brought us the *happy news* that Mr. Macqueen I. C. S., the popular Collector is to remain in our midst once more. It was a rude shock to the people of this district when they heard the sad news of his transfer but we are now doubly glad that he is to remain with us. He has yet to finish the useful work he has undertaken in the District and we hope that he will be allowed to remain with us for many more years. The District is bound to improve all round with Mr. Macqueen as Collector and with Mr. E. J. Johnson as D. S. P. Mr. Johnson has effected wonderful improvements in his department and has put down corruption with a stern hand. He is a strict disciplinarian but at the same time he is extremely kind and uncommonly sympathetic.

It is a pity that some irresponsible persons have rushed to public print and have tried to belittle the work of Mr. Macqueen in the matter of the stopping of Motor Buses on the other side of the Coleroon bridge. They

little realise that Mr. Macqueen is the least responsible for the stoppage for he had to stop the running of buses over the bridge on the expert advice and opinion of the Engineer. We hope Mr. Macqueen will ignore them as quite contemptible and console himself in the thought that the people of the District really love and admire him and are really too proud to own him as their District Head.

THIRUVANAIKOIL,
January 1923.

K. R. VENKATARAMAN.

THE RAJAH OF PANAGAL.

THE CHIEF MINISTER AT MANAPARAI.

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT.

The Hon'ble the Raja of Panagal, Minister for Local Self-Government, accompanised by his secretary, Mr. Edwin Perianayagam, Rao Bahadur P. C. Eihirajalu Naidu, M. L. C., and Mr. T. C. Thangavelu, M. L. C., arrived from the South by Rameswaram Express at 5 A. M. on 31—10—22. He was received at the station by Sir T. Desikachari KT., M. L. C.,

A 7 A.M. the President and members of the Union Board, Manaparai, presented an address which was read by Mr. B. K. Kuppusami Naidu, a member of the Union.

The Minister, after thanking them for the address, replied that the matters referred to would be duly considered by the President, District Board and the President, Kulitalai Taluk Board who, he said, evinced a great deal of interest in the welfare of the public and would do the needful in the matter.

Then the Minister accompained by Sir T. Desikachari motored to the Dombachi River few miles from Manaparai and had a view of the river.

OPENING CEREMONY.

The opening of the Mamundiar Bridge was celebrated at 9 A.M. A special pandal was erected near the bridge. The Minister accompanied by Sir T. Desikachari arrived at the appointed time and was introduced to the members

of the District Board. A very large number of District Board members, Taluk Board members and others were present. Prominent among them were—Mr. and Mrs. Macqueen, I.C.S., Collector; Mr. and Mrs. D'Mello, Mrs. Carter, Mr. T. H. Lemesurier, O. B. E. Mr. D. D. Warren, I. C. S., Sub Collector, Zamindars of Kadavur and Kumaravadi, Rao Bahadur K. Ragavendra Row: Rao Sahib Raja Ram Row, Khan Bahadur P. Kalifullah, Mr. K. Singam Iyengar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Srirangam, Mr. K. S. Muthumanikka Achari, M. L. C., and Mr. R. Sethuratnam, M. L. C., President, Taluk Board, Kulitalai. Manicka Vasaka Mudaliar Pleader Kulitalai.

Sir T. Desikachari KT. M. L. C., in requesting the Hon'ble the Rajah of Panagal to open the bridge made the following speech :—

Sir,on behalf of my Board it is my esteemed privilege to extend you a hearty welcome on this, your third visit to this district. Before I request you to declare the Mamundiyar bridge open, I crave your permission to make a few observations bearing on the construction of this bridge and the capital expenditure which it represents.

2. The Mamundiyar crosses the Great Southern Trunk road as well as the district road from Manapparai to Kulitalai at a point a mile and a half from the former place. That is where my Board and I met to welcome you today. Manapparai is a big trading centre, and the want of a bridge over this river was keenly felt all along.

3. Very soon after I became the President of this District Board, the Hon'ble Sir P. Rajagopalachariar, Member of Council, and now our venerated President of the Madras Legislative Council visited this district, and

Sir T. DESIKACHARI, Kt. M. L. C.

I drew attention to the existence of numerous unbridged rivers which rendered the main lines of communication not conveniently passable for even bullock carts and horses jutkas, much more so for motor vehicles in these days of speedy locomotion by land, sea, and air. He advised me to persuade my Board to borrow and build bridges: and if my Board were enterprising enough to do so, he told me that the Government would be prepared to make a free grant equal to a moiety of the expenses incurred. The Board took the advice readily for they realised that with the free grant and the loan repayable in easy instalments all the big rivers could be bridged and the public would have the benefit of the bridges within a measureable period of time.

4. But for this happy inspiration, the enterprise of my Board and the generous help of the Government, the construction of the bridges in this district and the capital expenditure thus entailed, could not have been undertaken from our slender revenues. I must add here that it is a matter of deep concern to Local Boards that by an unfair exaction of a fourth of the Provincial revenues by India, the provincial Government are not likely to be enabled to come to our rescue in connection with the numerous similar works of public utility pressingly needed in this and other districts.

5. I might while I am on this subject, draw your attention to the delay which takes place in the revision of estimates retarding the speedy execution of such huge works as the construction of bridges. I do not say this in a sprit of captious expostulation. No doubt the Government have a decided voice in the matter and must exercise strict supervision and control having regard to the free

grant and loan made from Provincial funds. My Board desire too that the public money should be expended carefully. I wish but to observe that the dual authority exercised in the execution of such works, makes for delay, and it is essential to devise ways and means to avoid alike friction and procrastination. I need hardly add that all avoidable delay means unnecessary loss to the Government and the Board.

6. Coming to the necessity and the utility of the bridge, the Mamundiyar has a serpentine course and crosses and recrosses the Great Southern Trunk road at many points appearing at each new place under a different name in varying intensity and volume. There are two stages in this erratic course still, where it is necessary to put up road dams or Irish bridges; one near Chittanattam about 6 miles down and one over the Dombachi about 4½ miles up the river. If these be accomplished and only then—this trunk road would be free of unbridged streams. Being a trunk road the whole of the expenditure in future on such undertakings must come from Provincial funds a point which I am perhaps precluded from pressing in the case of the present bridge and that over the Amaravati which is also on a trunk road. When owing to the contribution to India already adverted to even the funds expended by us for the maintenance of trunk roads, are paid to us only in arrear, we do not know how the Government of Madras are going to meet our just demands? The life of a President is not easy in such conditions: nor do I fail to realise that yours is not more easy.

7. Manapparai is already a big trading place with a weekly market rising in importance year after year as the whole trade of the Chettinadu is directed to and through

this Union village. The want of a bridge over a jungle stream like the Mamundiyar liable to go into sudden and torrential floods interferring with traffic on market days, affected materially the trade here. The present bridge, it is hoped, would remove the inconvenience and help the free flow of trade to no small extent. The development of markets must be by the improvement of communications.

8. This bridge which you are going to open has eight vents of 30 feet span each. The estimate for its construction was sent up for sanction on 22nd July 19 and was sanctioned on 7th November 19. Tenders were invited for the work on 24th December 19 and the work was entrusted on contract to Reghu Leera Sait on 20—2—20. The site had then to be acquired, and the line of work marked out. The approval of the Superintending Engineer, the late Mr. G. S. Rama Aiyar, was secured on 30—7—20. The foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Sir P. Rajagopalachariar on 21—9—20. Here I have on behalf of my Board to express our feelings of gratitude for the sympathy aud encouragement received by us from him in connection with the construction of all the three bridges in this District during the tenure of his office.

9. The extraordinary floods in November 1920 and January 1921 which washed away some of the materials collected, hindered the speedy commencement of the work. Practically therefore the work was started in February 1921. Almost at the completiou of the work, it was realised that the cement concrete had to be placed on the trough plates over the girders and some minor deviations and alterations to be made. The whole increase over the revised estimate was hardly Rs. 10,400. A revised estimate was prepared for Rs. 11,40,000 and submitted on

6—1—22. After a delay of eight months, it was returned for details being furnished for lump sum provisions. The details could have been secured in no time as the Superintending Engineer's Office was hardly a mile from the District Board Engineer's Office. The District Board Engineer could not go on with necessary deviations and alterations found necessary during the execution without requisite authority. I had in many cases, though a lay man, to pass orders on my own responsibility in order to make the work not to come to a stand still.

10. The work was done under the direct charge of the District Board Engineer, Mr. E. M. DeMello. He was assisted by the range overseer Venkatarama Aiyar, who was in charge of the work as soon as it was started. After a good portion of the work was done he was detailed to do duty on the Amaravati Bridge and the remaining work was done by his successor in the range under the personal direction and responsibility of the District Board Engineer. In the course of the excution of the work three Superintending Engineers, yourself and the Hon'ble Mr. Patro, inspected the work. Those who inspected the work were pleased to observe that it was good work speedily done.

11. I know, sir, that you have during your term of office evinced great interest in the bridges in course of completion in this district and we are greatful to you for coming here to open this bridge. I hope to be in a position to request you to open also the other two bridges ere long.

12. With this account of the bridge work, and the observations which, at the end of your long tour, may be reminiscent of similar holdings forth elsewhere, I request you to declare this bridge open for public use. May your

tenure of office as Chief Minister to Government of Madras be signalised by the completion of similar works of public utility in this district, is the desire of myself and the members of my Board.

THE MINISTER'S SPEECH.

The Hon'ble the Rajah of Panagal in declaring the the Mamundiar Bridge open made the following reply:—

Mr. President and members of the Trichinopoly District Board, ladies and gentlemen.

I need hardly say I rejoice to be here for the third time to meet you and to be greeted by you. I thank you sincerly for the cordial welcome you have accorded to me on this occasion. I am gratified to find that the Trichinopoly District has been able to nearly finish two bridges in the course of about two years. And I am glad to learn that the activities of the Board in its enterprise have been greatly encouraged by my distinguished predecessor in officc Sir P. Rajagopalachariar. Sir Rajagopalachariar is a broad minded and farseeing statesman. His career as a Member in charge of the Local Self Government of has been marked by great advances. His /career as President of the Madras Legislative Council is distinguished.

Gentlemen! you have been able to execute this bridge work within a remarkably short period of time in spite of handicaps. One of the handicaps your President has refered to in his address is the delay in the Public Works Department. It is to be regretted that department has taken such a long time in dealing with the revised estimate of the bridge. The bridges are absolutely neces-

sary for continued communications and I cannot help taking interest in bringing bridges into existence. Without bridges communications can not be complete and without communications we can not have development in any line of activities in our life. Particularly trade and industries require communications and it is really creditable to this Board to have not only finished this bridge but to have nearly finished the Amaravathi Bridge. I hope ere long with these bridges, the District will be having complete communications not only throughout the district but also outside extending to other districts. and provinces.

It is indeed pleasing to listen to the excellent references to the work of the District Foard Engineer in connection with the construction of this bridge. Mr. D'Mello is reported to be a capable officer. He has already been recommended by the District Board President for first grade and I am glad to take this opportunity to say that I accept the recommendaiion. The appointment will come into effect from the date on which he was recommended.

Gentlemen, It is true that on occasions Government are seriously handicaped for want of funds as has been stated by your President. I hope only that ere long the financial position of the Government will be more promising so much so that we may undertake more of development works of public utility not only in this district but throughout the Presidency. Gentlemen, before I declare the bridge open I thank you again for the very cordial reception given to me. (cheers)

From there the whole party moved to the bridge and the Minister declared the bridge open for public traffic He went to the other side on foot and returned by motor

THE MAMUNDIAR RIVER.

to test the Bridge. A very large crowd of villagers gathered at the bridge.

DISTRICT BOARD.

A meeting of the District Board Members was held near the bridge. Sir T. Desikachari presided. Hon'ble Minister watched the proceedings. A few subjects were discussed for nearly half an hour and the meeting adjourned,

About half a dozen new members took the oath of allegiance.

NONBRAHMIN ADDRESS.

The Minister received an address of welcome from the Nonbrahmin Association, Mr. M. R. Thirumalasami Chettiar, Secretary of the local Branch of the S. I. L. F., read an address when Messrs. K. N. Narayanasami Pillai, P. Sundaram Pillai, T. N. Padhmanaban, Sir., Kungaradas S. Muhamad Musthan Sahib, Venkatasami Raju and others were present.

THE WELCOME ADDRESS.

To

THE HON'BLE,

P. RAMARAYANINGAR, M.A., F. M. U., M. L. C.,

RAJA OF PANAGAL,

Chief Minister to Government, Madras.

Hon'ble Sir,—It is with feelings of pride and satisfactiou that we welcome you to this historic town (which was once the capital of Malluvanadu) of Manaparai on this occassion of your visit, pride because the party of

which you are an accredited leader has despite many a foul attack, so gloriously come out with success, that it has the honour of having you, an aristocrat by birth, as the Minister of our party, the democratic party in our Presidency; and satisfaction, because in the midst of your crowded programme of public work you have been able to find some hours just to give us an opportunity to meet you and pay our respects.

Sir, we have been watching your interest and activities towards our cherished cause which you so boldly inaugurated as the President of the first of the Nonbrahmin Conference at Coimbatore and it is with delight that we are able to say that our success is due mainly to our untiring zeal for our cause. We are confident that in you we shall always have in the Government of the Presidency a true, sincere and earnest interpreter of the legitimate feelings and aspirations of our community and that you would not rest content till our fervent hopes, as described in the creed of our party, are transformed into realities.

We crave leave to place before you our most important want which deserves your serious attention. It is the scarcity of good drinking water. Manaparai was made a Union four years back and it contains a population of about 3,500. The income of the union is Rs. 5,700 and a portion of the amount is spent for the upkeep of the two weekly markets where about 5,000 people and 1,500 cattle congregate and which alone yield an income of over Rs. 4,000. Good drinking water is not available to the people, and if the present pipe is removed to Anandapuram, which is about 3 furlongs from this town and where very good drinking water is available and if a few taps are opened in the town, the people will be very much

benefited and they will pray for your long life and prosperity.

We thank you sincerely for your kindness in paying a visit to this town and pray most earnestly that God will bless you with wisdom and strength to carry on the arduous duties of your high office.

THE MINISTER'S REPLY.

Gentlemen,

"It gives me very great pleasure to know how your association is getting on and it is no small gratification. to me to be told that you are making your existence felt. The party in power is the party which you support and you may rest assured that the Ministers and other members of the Legislative Council will see that the progress of the Nonbrahmin community is not impeded.

The question of watter-supply has been raised in the address presented by the Union Board, I had a talk with the President District Board and I am sure he will pay due attention to your complaint. So far as the finance is concerned the Union deserves to be congratulated inasmuch as it has an income of 5000 to 6000 rupees and I am pleased to note that a considerable portion of the revenue consists of the income from market. This is shared equally between the Union and the Taluk Board. I trust that you will improve your market. I wish all prosperty to the association.

Jananukoola Press, Trichy.

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			1	0	2	0	3	4	3	12	4	8
3. Pudukotah ...	...		...		0	12	1	4	2	0	2	12
					1	0	1	8	3	0	3	12
4. Tirumayam ...	...		...		...		0	12	1	8	2	4
							1	0	2	0	3	0
5. Pallattur ...	...		...		...		...		0	12	1	8
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6. Karaikudi ...	...		...		...		...		...		0	12
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A Word about Dodge-Graham Bus.

The Dodge-Graham motor trucks supplied to customers in Southern India have generally been fitted up with 25-seater bodies, with space for 1,000 lbs. of luggage or mails. Bodies have been built to customers' instructions, though we have always been ready to give the benefit of our long experience in this direction.

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